GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4525
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2001
AGRA SUMMIT
RAMANAND SINGH;SAMUDRALA VENUGOPAL CHARY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the failure of talks at Agra with Pakistan was attributed to a telephonic call to President of Pakistan from Islamabad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)&(b) The visit of President Pervez Musharraf to India, and the summit level talks held at Agra on 15 & 16 July 2001, marks the resumption of the dialogue process with Pakistan.

The summit level talks contributed to a greater awareness of each other`s viewpoints. Both sides have agreed to the importance of continuing this dialogue process, and in keeping with this Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister have accepted invitations to visit Pakistan. The CBMs (confidence building measures) announced by India on 4th, 6th and 9th July 2001 prior to the arrival of President Musharraf, when implemented, will contribute to our desire to establish peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan.

India and Pakistan could not agree to a joint document as an outcome of the Summit because Pakistan adopted an approach which was fixated almost exclusively on Jammu & Kashmir. The Pakistan side also insisted on the `settlement` of the Jammu & Kashmir issue as a precondition to the normalization of our bilateral ties. It was also reluctant to acknowledge and address cross border terrorism, and showed a negative attitude to references to the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration in the joint document. Clearly, India could not sacrifice basic principles for the sake of a joint document.